

# Resilient Connectivity as the Standard

## Southeast Conference Mid-Session Summit



Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
Katherine Keith, PMP, PMI-ACP, Deputy Commissioner

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# Southeast Has Been Tested

Recent Events 2023 - 2025



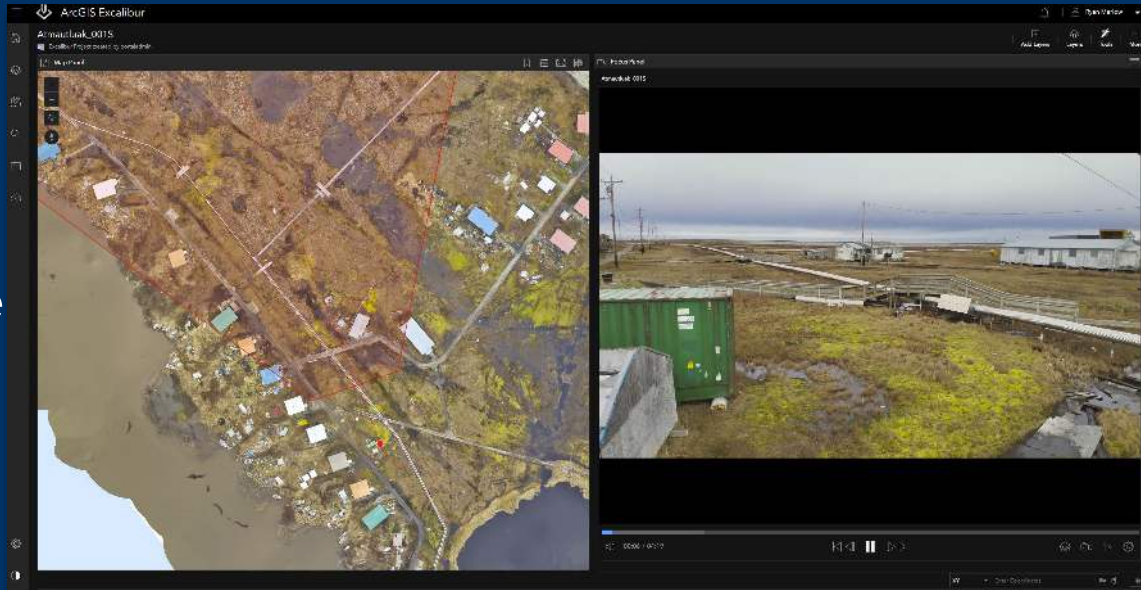
# Geography is Fixed; Fragility can be Managed



# Restoration Time Is the True Metric

## Alaskan's Measure

- Hours to reopen
- Days to restore freight
- Time to stabilize service



## Operational Lessons

- Pre-positioning equipment
- Clear contracting authority
- Emergency procurement discipline
- Workforce surge capacity
- Reimbursement-ready documentation

A sign for Ketchikan, Alaska, announcing bypass hours. The sign features the Alaska Department of Transportation &amp; Public Facilities logo in the top left. The text reads: "Ketchikan ALASKA Over 600 travelers safely crossed the bypass this morning MONDAY, MAR 24 PM BYPASS HOURS 4:30-7:30 PM". The sign is set against a background of a road construction site with orange traffic cones.

# Emergency Response Modernization

From Reactive to Coordinated



## Traditional Model

- Fragmented command
- Manual status tracking
- Delayed contractor mobilization
- Post-event documentation scramble
- Limited cross-region visibility

## Modernized Model

- Integrated incident command
- Real-time asset visibility
- Rapid contractor activation
- Documentation aligned with federal reimbursement
- Unified cross-regional coordination



# Local Knowledge Is an Asset, Not an Input

In landslide events and storm recovery, some of the most critical intelligence came from:

- Local maintenance supervisors
- Tribal leaders
- Borough emergency managers
- Harbor masters
- Marine operators

We learned that:

- Local operators understand terrain behavior
- Communities know where secondary failures may occur
- Early engagement accelerates decision-making
- Trust built before an event determines effectiveness during an event



*Deputy Commissioner Keith and Sigfrud from Kwigillingok*



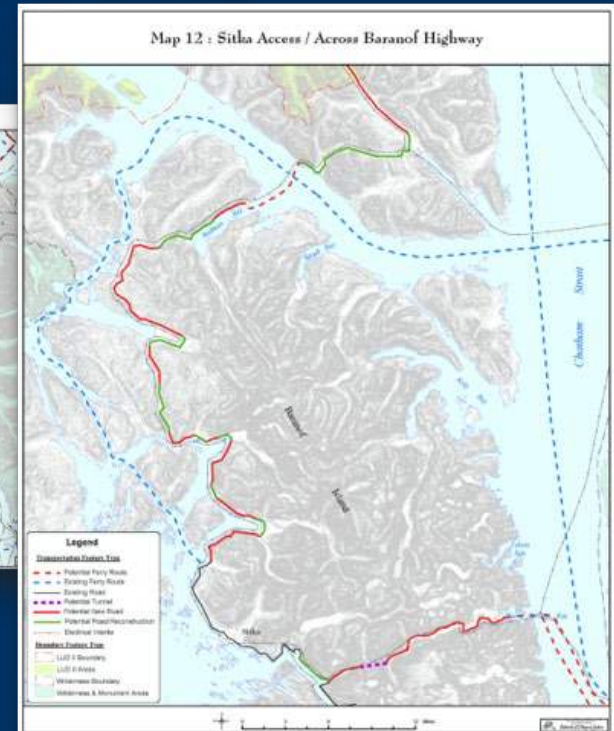
*Hog River Crew Snow Machine team*

# Redundancy Must Be Intentional

Identify single points of failure and elevate life-safety corridors

## New STIP Projects

- Baranof Island Highway Corridor Study
- Kupreanof–Mitkof Island Multimodal Connector Study
- Chichagof Island Multimodal Connector Study



# Tribal Policy Modernization

Resilience is Relational

## ALASKA DOT&PF TRIBAL RELATIONS

*Community-Led Transportation*  
COLLABORATION • MUTUAL RESPECT • LASTING RELATIONSHIPS



### ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC FACILITIES

COMMISSIONER  
Ryan ANDERSON



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
Katherine KEITH



COMMUNICATIONS  
Shannon McCARTHY

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Henry COLE

RURAL ACCESS PROGRAM: FRONTIER ROADS & WRAP  
Rebecca GARRETT

WORKFORCE & TRAINING  
Jocelyn SWINDEL



ALASKA NATIVE CHAMBER

Kristi WILLIAMS

Ben CUTTRUSS

Modernizing Policy 01.03.010 (2002), developing a draft Statewide Tribal Consultation Policy, training modules, and a resource library

- Updating Statewide Tribal Consultation Policy
- Survey Outreach and Engagement Sessions Informing the Policy
- Training Modules For DOT&PF Staff
- Tribal Engagement Resource Library

Meet  
The Team

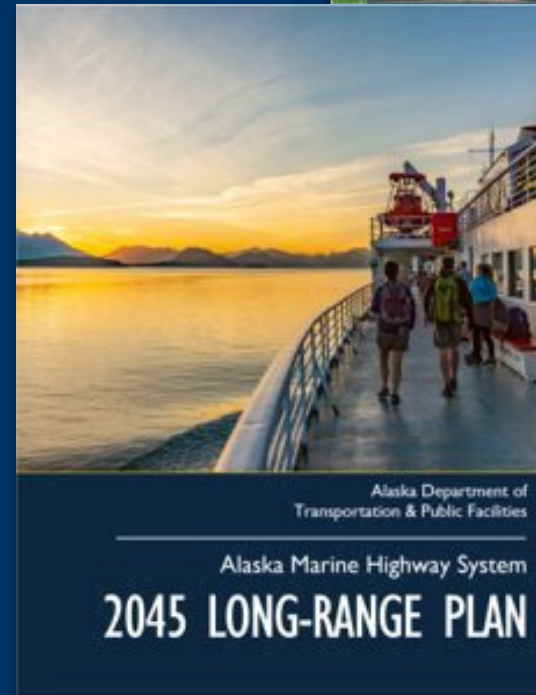
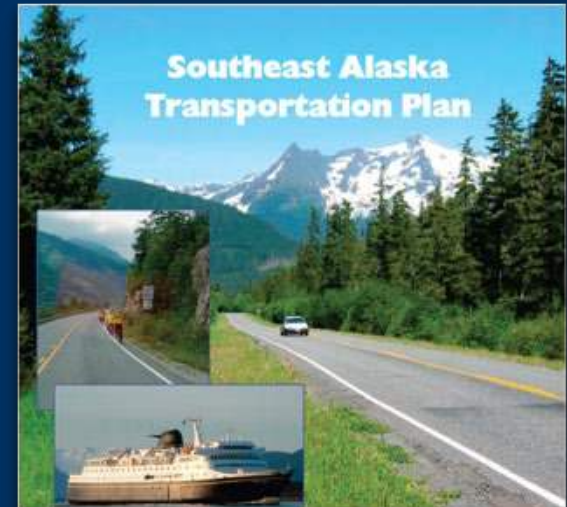
# Planning for Resiliency to 2045

## Planning to Mitigate Risk Against:

- Marine dependency
- Limited surface redundancy
- Aging infrastructure
- High-cost logistics

## The Plan Must:

- Be prioritized
- Be sequenced
- Identify fragility
- Integrate risk modeling
- Be explicit about trade-offs





Source: USDA - FIA Program, RSAC, Est. Est. USGS, National Land Survey of Finland, Est. TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS

# Resilient Going Forward Investing in Alaska's Future: Alaska's Connected Infrastructure & Resource Investment System

### Infrastructure

- International Airports
- Rural Airport Hubs
- Rural Airports
- Tunnels
- Ports
- National Highway System
- Railroad
- Trans Alaska Pipeline
- Proposed Alaska LNG Line
- Marine routes

### Natural Resources

- Forest
- Oil & Gas
- Coal
- Critical & Battery Materials
- Precious Metals
- Renewable / Low Carbon
- Base / Structural Materials



**Resilient connectivity - in infrastructure, policy, and relationships - will define Southeast Alaska's economic future.**



# Thank You.

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